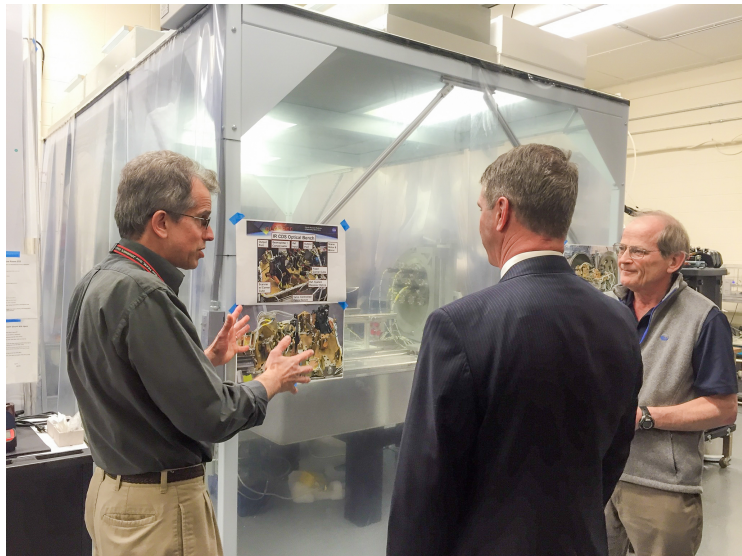




Congressman Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.) visited NASA Langley on Jan. 28, 2016. Wittman represents the first district, which includes NASA Langley.

The agenda for Wittman included a stop to see the CLARREO infrared calibration demonstration system. CLARREO received new start funding in FY'16. That funding will potentially support the flight of two instruments, Reflected Solar (RS) and Infrared (IR) spectrometers, hosted on the International Space Station in FY 2019 or 2020 time frame. The CLARREO mission will provide accurate, credible, and tested climate records for informed decisions on mitigation and adaptation policies that address the effects of climate change on society.



Congressman Wittman talks with Dave Johnson and Bruce Wielicki about the CLARREO Calibration Demonstration System.

Wittman, who has a background in science and public health, said getting a firsthand look at the technologies at NASA Langley will allow him to explain to other members of the U.S. House of Representatives "the importance of what's happening, the impacts that these projects have on our economy, that they have on the body of scientific knowledge, and for folks to understand that there is a purpose behind all of this."

He also said he values NASA's role in keeping the U.S. technologically competitive — a role he believes extends beyond the concrete science the agency produces.

"I think there's a dual role here at NASA," Wittman said, "not only in the science it produces in the advancement of aerospace, aeronautics and Earth science ... It's also a motivator for these young folks to say, 'Wow, look at what I can do.' "

Excerpted from Joe Atkinson's article "Rigell, Wittman Pay Visits to NASA Langley" from January 29, 2016.